

The background of the entire page is a large, light gray watermark of the Placer County Seal. The seal is circular and features a central shield with a landscape scene, including a mountain, a river, and a sun. The words "PLACER COUNTY" are arched over the top of the shield, and "CALIFORNIA" is arched along the bottom. The entire seal is surrounded by a decorative border.

**PLACER
COUNTY**

2014

Placer County's Legislative Platform is a statement of the goals and priorities of the Board of Supervisors and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts with the Executive and Legislative branches of the U.S. Government and the State of California.

**ANNUAL
LEGISLATIVE
PLATFORM
DETAIL**

PLACER COUNTY
2014 Legislative/Regulatory Platform
PROPOSALS

Proposal 1: Economic Development

Support statewide, regional and local efforts to promote economic development and legislation that funds existing state economic development programs.

Issue: Support for retention of statewide efforts that can positively affect Placer County's economic growth is important, such as those within the Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development unit, TeamCalifornia Marketing Programs, Office of Small Business Advocate, and CA Film Commission. These programs, and others that are regionally or locally specific, can be considered within overall strategic plans for economic development with Placer County.

Proposal 2: Regional Water Strategy

Support the efforts of the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) and the regional water purveyor team (the Sacramento Water Alliance) to protect our water resources and prevent increases in fees and/or changes in our infrastructure that is dedicated to conveying and distributing water to Placer County residents.

Issue: Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in legislative activity intended to solve California's water delivery problems. In Placer County, upstream from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and valley, the County and its partner PCWA see the problem as an exporter and water contractor problem. Inevitably, however, the proposed solutions require upstream and valley water right holders and water purveyors to contribute water and money to any of one of the proposed solutions still under development through the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). During the latest water project relicensing proceedings, federal and state agencies have challenged historic water rights. To ensure water rights for Placer County citizens are protected, all potential water loss attempts should be reviewed. For PCWA and the County, a much stronger understanding and position within the regional water strategy will be necessary to protect the interests of the County.

Proposal 3 Sustainable Communities Funding; Cap and Trade Auction Revenues

Support legislation, regulation and program implementation for distribution of Cap and Trade Auction Revenues to local agencies, consistent with policies and program priorities of Placer County. In 2014, significant auction revenues will be available for potential uses such as energy, infrastructure, housing and other programs as may be defined.

Issue: Notwithstanding various policy perspectives on AB 32 and SB 375, broad legislation was developed and approved to distribute revenues generated through the carbon auction developed as a result of AB 32 (Pavley, 2006). This revenue could potentially be utilized by the County to invest in energy infrastructure, land conservation, housing and other programs. Strong advocacy is needed to ensure that local governments, which must comply with the mandates of SB 375 and AB 32, are eligible to receive funding generated by auctions and other fees associated with greenhouse gas reduction.

Proposal 4: Program Realignment

Support efforts and legislation to achieve protections, dedication of adequate revenue, and flexibility leading to best outcomes for Placer County including those related to the implementation of 2011 and 2013 State/County Realignments impacting Public Safety and Health and Human Services.

Issue: In August of 2013, the Courts ordered the release of an additional 10,000 inmates by year-end. As a result, the Legislature approved SB 105 which will transfer inmates to out-of-state facilities, private correctional organizations, as well as to counties with available bed space. The Legislature also adopted numerous bills aimed at reducing recidivism through use of evidence-based practices and the implementation of new programs. However, there was little or no funding to implement these new County requirements. These changes place further strain on counties attempting to successfully implement AB 109.

In addition, the 2013 Health Realignment redirects 60 percent of the County's Health Realignment funding to the State offset by County savings from reduced indigent health responsibilities. The Realignment begins January 1, 2014 and is intended to be revenue neutral to the County. The Realignment includes multiple program changes and potential new fiscal risks and opportunities so as implementation occurs, it must align County risk to the level of authority, funding, and flexibility.

Proposal 5: Employee Relations

Oppose legislation that would reduce local control as pertains to employee relations and collective bargaining, mandated employee benefits, or that may otherwise create financial burden.

Issue: Placer County supports local control in regards to employee relations. These issues are pension benefits and pension system administration; labor relations; issues regarding county negotiations with employees; workers' compensation; and other risk management issues.

Proposal 6: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Monitor legislation related to CEQA reform and advocate as necessary to address potential impacts to key policy areas of interest to Placer County including, but not limited to, economic development, efficient delivery of infrastructure, implementation of Placer County Conservation Plan, and requirements to provide affordable housing.

Issue: Since CEQA was enacted, there have been periodic calls for reform of the statute. The most recent reform interests were proposed for inclusion in SB 317 (Rubio, 2012), the Sustainable environmental Protection Act. This Act would have prescribed how CEQA was enforced, restricted certain types of lawsuits and exempted some projects from CEQA review as long as those projects conformed to local planning and zoning codes. Currently, CEQA working groups are meeting and in the 2013 legislative year, additional proposals for reform are anticipated.

Proposal 7: Placer County Conservation Plan Funding and Support

Support legislation and programs that advance the objectives of the PCCP to protect open space and agricultural land in the County and to comply with the myriad of state and federal laws that apply to wetlands and sensitive species while streamlining regulatory procedures. Seek clarification on levels-of-significance thresholds, definitions, and mitigation/conservation standards, as implemented by proposed or adopted NCCPs/HCPs. Seek to resolve potential

statutory conflicts between fuel load reduction needs and activities and impacts to oak woodlands as necessary.

Issues: Landowners are continuing their efforts for large-scale entitlements that have the potential to convert over 50,000 acres of county land over the next 50 years. With an increase in urbanization, land may be lost resulting in a decrease in biological diversity and habitat.

Proposal 8: Facilitate Implementation of Placer Legacy Programs

Support legislation and programs that advance the objectives of the Placer Legacy Program to protect open space and agricultural land in the County and to comply with the myriad of state and federal laws.

Issue: There are significant costs to acquiring, managing and monitoring conservation properties. In the past, Placer County has benefited from several donations from private foundations and individuals, and grants from a variety of entities including the Sierra Business Council, the Trust for Public Land, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of California. Placer County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in California. However, this growth has occurred through the conversion of large areas of grasslands, woodlands, and riparian areas to urban, rural, suburban, and industrial uses. Without a comprehensive and adequately funded approach, the County will lose the natural and scenic qualities that distinguish it from so many other fast growing areas.

Proposal 9: Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project

Support opportunities to obtain financial assistance from state agencies to fund construction of the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project.

Issue: Lake Tahoe is designated an "Outstanding National Resource Water" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Kings Beach commercial area is located at the northerly entrance to the Lake Tahoe Basin. Federal financial assistance, in conjunction with state and local funding, is needed to provide water quality treatment facilities, pedestrian/bicycle paths and other streetscape amenities to improve the water quality of Lake Tahoe and revitalize the historical commercial core of Kings Beach. The Kings Beach improvement project is identified in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) as one of the projects around the Lake Tahoe Basin to facilitate attainment of nine environmental thresholds, including water quality, to protect the natural environment of the Basin.

Proposal 10: Placer Parkway Project

Seek and support federal funding for the Placer Parkway Project as shown in the approved Placer Parkway Corridor Preservation EIR. The Placer Parkway will provide a new east/west connection, which adds significant needed capacity, and support economic development.

Issue: Placer Parkway is a planned 14.2-mile high-speed transportation facility of regional benefit that will connect State Route 65 in western Placer County to State Route 99 in South Sutter County. This facility will link existing and planned development in a region that has seen some of the fastest growing communities in California Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln, and the Sunset Industrial Area. Placer County has seen a significant amount of development in the past decade and the regional transportation facilities are at or near capacity. In addition, the County projects a significant amount of growth in the future. The anticipated development to support this increased population and employment will dramatically increase travel demand on the regions roadways over the next 20 years and beyond. The County and cities have been adding new roadways to their network, but a need still exists for additional facilities. One of the areas in

greatest need of capacity enhancement is for east/west travelers. Currently, the roadway system provides one major east/west link within this region; Baseline Road in Placer County that turns into Riego Road in Sutter County. Even with future improvements to this roadway, the east/west roadway network is over capacity with the future projected growth. The additional east/west roadway capacity for this fast growing region will reduce congestion on the local and regional transportation system and advance economic development goals in southwestern Placer County and South Sutter County.

Proposal 11: Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

Seek funding for future restoration efforts to preserve and protect Lake Tahoe.

Issue: Approved in 2000, the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA) authorized \$300M in federal funding, over 10 years, to preserve and protect Lake Tahoe from continued environmental deterioration. The LTRA was reauthorized in 2011, but no funding was appropriated and no action by Congress is anticipated until 2014. Federal funding supports the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) –a \$900M federal, state, and local partnership to improve the water clarity of the lake and restore Lake Tahoe’s environmental health, and maintain the lake’s status as an “Outstanding National Resource Water” as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To date, nearly 300 environmental projects and restoration activities have occurred as a result of this funding. Placer County has received a significant part of this federal funding to plan, design, permit, and construct a number of water quality improvement projects throughout the north and west shore areas of Lake Tahoe in Placer County. Additional federal funding will be needed to complete future restoration efforts in Placer County and other Lake Tahoe project-implementing jurisdictions.

Proposal 12: California State Water Resources Control Board National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 2 Regulations

Support NPDES Phase 2 permit requirements that are reasonable and implementable by municipalities. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) should continue to implement the minimum Federal Clean Water Act requirements without expanding permit conditions that will be logistically or financially impossible to meet. Support federal funding assistance and legislation to make it easier to implement local fee programs for storm water quality program implementation.

Issue: The SWRCB adopted their proposed revisions to its Phase 2 General Permit in February 2013. This revised General Permit will impose requirements on Phase 2 municipalities that greatly exceed those of the larger, NPDES Phase 1 municipalities. The six minimum control measures identified in the Federal Clean Water Act for the NPDES Phase 2 program would be supplemented with six additional permit elements, all with extensive data collection, management and reporting requirements, and increased cost. The revision is far more prescriptive than the existing version and includes many new implementation requirements, duplicates actions required under other State permitting programs, and eliminates local implementation flexibility. Many of the proposed requirements have questionable benefit to water quality. No additional funding is proposed for the expansion of the Phase 2 General Permit. This imposes an unreasonable burden on local government in a time of severe economic distress. The current water quality program for the County is funded at approximately \$800,000 per year. Projections are that the new permit requirements will, at minimum, triple the program cost.

Proposal 13: Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation (TMDL)

Support legislation and advocacy efforts to: (1) minimize further water quality regulation and unfunded mandates, with an emphasis on minimizing administrative, monitoring and inspection regulatory activities that do not directly lead to cleaner storm water; (2) facilitate easier implementation of local fee programs to support storm water quality program implementation and; (3) continue and increase State and Federal funding assistance for TMDL compliance and storm water program implementation. TMDL implementation requirements are in addition to existing NPDES permit requirements in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Program expansion should not be considered until economic conditions improve and new program funding opportunities are available to implementers. Permit requirements should be cost-effective and reasonable and should have direct water quality benefit.

Issue: In November 2010, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) proposed amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan). These amendments establish the TMDL to halt Lake Tahoe's transparency decline and restore transparency to meet the established clarity standard for the lake. While these proposed Basin Plan changes appear positive for protecting Lake Tahoe, it places additional financial burden on local governments in the Lake Tahoe Basin to comply with the proposed pollutant standards. Failure to comply with NPDES permit requirements, including compliance with TMDL load reduction milestones, would be a violation subject to enforcement actions and penalties.

Proposal 14: State Wetlands and Riparian Areas Protection Policy

Support legislation or policy development that directs the State Water Resources Control Board to prepare a Wetlands and Riparian Areas Protection Policy that takes advantage of the science-based planning and programmatic regulatory opportunities provided by programs such as the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP).

Issue: Presently, the State Water Resources Control Board is drafting a statewide regulation regarding wetlands. The State Board should coordinate any new statewide wetlands regulation with the numerous landscape-level conservation efforts being developed to ensure that a new project-by-project regulatory scheme is not developed when all other resource management issues have been addressed at the landscape-scale through an adopted conservation strategy. This lack of coordination, without any regional context, will result in fragmented mitigation activities, bureaucratic redundancy, and a lack of certainty for regulatory outcomes for the public and private sector.

Proposal 15: HR 2389 - Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act

Approve a long-term reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS).

Issue: On October 3, 2013 the SRS and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 was reauthorized for federal fiscal year 2013 only, as part of Public Law 112-141. This one-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act made some significant changes to the previous reauthorization in Public Law 110-343. Counties find it increasingly difficult to rely upon this unstable revenue stream to provide increasingly critical funding. California counties, which received over \$38 million in SRS funding in 2011, rely on the program to maintain local roads and other public infrastructure, operate search and rescue missions, and make additional investments in projects that protect fire-sensitive ecosystems. The loss of this funding stream is not replaceable with State or local revenues as the current economy challenges sheriffs' departments, fire departments and schools to simply stay open and available in rural

communities. The loss of roughly \$841,000 represents the 2013 total share of HR 527 funding for the County. Future loss of this funding could potentially jeopardize the safety and welfare of County residents.

Proposal 16: Reauthorization - Federal Surface Transportation Bill (“MAP-21 Reauthorization”)

Support federal funding for transportation improvements and specifically ongoing Reauthorization of the Federal Surface Transportation Bill, known as MAP-21.

Issue: The federal surface transportation expired September 2009. The Federal government has passed a series of extensions while contemplating a new Federal Transportation Bill. In 2011, Senators Barbara Boxer and James Inhofe authored the two-year extension. It preserved current levels of federal highway investment plus inflation for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013. Placer County typically receives over 85% of eligible transportation project costs from programs funded by this source. Rapid growth within the region has fueled the need for additional investment in the County’s traffic circulation system. County federal transportation funding needs include: continued Interstate 80 (a major cross-country interstate highway) improvements, the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project; county bridge replacement projects, and the future proposed Placer Parkway.

Proposal 17: Retaining the Film Industry in California

Support incentives that result in retention and promotion of film production in California, specifically those types of productions traditionally shot on location in Placer County.

Issue: Historically the film industry in California has been one of the principle economic engines and signature industries in California according to a legislative report compiled by the California Research Bureau. This industry has diminished substantially in California as other countries and over 42 states have introduced favorable incentive programs. Legislation that attracts and retains production throughout the State would make California, and Placer County, competitive in the film industry again. The first three years of the California Film and TV Tax Credit Program have been very successful and resulted in modest economic gains statewide but the program sunsets in 2014-15. In 2012, two identical bills passed AB2026 (Fuentes) and SB1197 (Calderon, formerly SB1167) providing a two year extension of the program through fiscal year. Successful passage of similar legislation that would further extend this sunset, targeting the retention of film and television production could result in increased revenues for the County.

Proposal 18: Pest Detection Funding for Farm Bill Appropriations to California

Support funding to retain or enhance existing funding for pest prevention and detection funding performed by the Agriculture Department.

Issue: Section 10201 of the 2008 Federal Farm Bill provides funding for pest detection and pest prevention projects performed by individual states. In California, this money is used by the California Department of Food and Agriculture to fund state and county Pest Prevention, Detection, and Eradication projects intended to protect the state from invasive non-native pests which could harm our agricultural industries and the environment. Loss of funding would reduce the department’s revenues, reduce pest detection activities, and potentially increase the number of harmful pests threatening or damaging Placer County and California’s agricultural industries. Potential revenue loss of approximately \$100,000 is anticipated, if funding is eliminated.

Proposal 19: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Funding for California Wildlife Services

Support legislation and regulation that restores or enhances funding to the USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services Program in California to increase service and reduce costs to counties.

Issue: The Placer County Agricultural Commissioner has an MOU with the USDA Wildlife Services to provide training and equipment to county staff. Recent cost increases to the federal program have caused the county share of program costs to increase as local USDA staff has no mechanism to increase funding themselves. Instead, they pass along cost increases to their partners. In Placer County, these cost increases have resulted in one Federal Wildlife Specialist being reassigned to another county, a 25% decrease in programming staff, as well as loss of significant material support to the County's program. In addition to reductions in county staff support, loss of funding impacts essential training and the use of specialized equipment the County must now purchase independently. Recently, budget reductions have limited the ability of California Wildlife Services to fulfill the equipment support found in the MOU. Restoring funding will ensure Placer County continues to receive at least the same level of support currently needed.

Proposal 20: Development funding for USDA Slaughter and Processing Facility

Support funding to aid in the facility planning, design, and business planning that will precede construction of a new USDA-inspected slaughter and processing facility in Placer County

Issue: The growth of Placer County's livestock is hindered by the lack of local facilities available to slaughter and process their animals with USDA inspection. The closest facilities are currently located in Fairfield, CA and Reno, NV. Transportation costs significantly impact the profitability of the local producers. A local USDA-inspected slaughter and processing facility would allow livestock producers to more economically harvest their animals, which in turn would aid their economic sustainability. Additionally, the facility would serve other producers from outside of the county expanding the opportunity for economic growth.

Proposal 21: State and Regional Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Proposal

Oppose any new legislation that seeks to add additional regulatory responsibility by the Agricultural Commissioner of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). Any new regulatory responsibility given to the County Agricultural Commissioner must be accompanied by adequate funding to provide for additional staff, training and equipment needs. Additionally, new regulatory authorities would need to be established.

Issue: The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) currently operates the ILRP under the authority of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. This program requires commercial agriculturalists who irrigate to join a water quality coalition and pay for water quality monitoring. As evidenced by AB 2595 (Huffman), the Regional Board and a portion of the state legislature seek to require the local county Agricultural Commissioner to assume a regulatory role, within the ILRP, by prohibiting the Agricultural Commissioner from issuing pesticide use permits to growers until the Agricultural Commissioner has verified that each grower is currently participating in the ILRP. This would create an unfunded mandate for the Agricultural Commissioner by requiring at least one additional full-time staff position plus related support items.

Proposal 22: Williamson Act

Support legislation and state funding for the Williamson Act program.

Issue: There is no funding at the state level to implement the Williamson Act program. The continued failure of the State to provide Williamson Act subventions to counties poses a threat to the future viability of family farms and ranches in Placer County and California if their property taxes are raised to development land value levels. Established in 1971, the Williamson Act Subvention Program provides a property tax exemption designed to keep agricultural and open space land free of development and give local governments a useful tool to implement land use planning goals (until the State entirely defunded the subventions in the 2011-12 budget). The reduced tax base on farmland can be a critical determining factor as to whether land is sold and developed or it remains in agricultural production.

Proposal 23: United States Forest Service (USFS) NEPA Funding for Noxious Weed Eradication

Support long term funding for NEPA preparation and specific noxious weeds in the Integrated Resource and Restoration (IRR) USDA budget line item.

Issue: Invasive noxious weeds continue to proliferate on public and private lands throughout California threatening the state's critical infrastructure, its biodiversity, ecological integrity, and its agriculture. Placer County is addressing this problem through grant-funded noxious weed eradication efforts on state and private lands, but the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has not been able to adequately address this problem in California due to the lack of "Invasive Species Management" NEPA analysis for most forests and a lack of resources. According to the California Invasive Plant Council's recent estimates, \$82,000,000 is spent annually to control the invasive noxious weeds that infest millions of acres in California. Left unmanaged, weeds on USFS lands create a reservoir of invasive noxious weeds that proliferate and spread to private and non-federal public lands. This increases costs for private landowners and for state and local weed management programs. Owners of livestock are impacted as they often cannot graze ruminant animals on land infested with invasive noxious weeds, and frequent users of public land are disappointed with declining forest productivity, loss of wildlife and native plant habitats, and loss of recreational opportunities.

Proposal 24: Collection of CA Department of Food and Agriculture Administrative Fees

Oppose legislation or regulation (including sunset extensions) that would require County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers to collect administrative fees for the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Issue: There is a significant amount of time required to collect, track, and remit fees to the state. This impacts not only Agricultural Department staff, but also staff in the Auditor's office. Programs requiring County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers to collect fees on behalf of a state agency causes an increase in cost and can adversely affect positive working relationships with the community.

Proposal 25: Materials Recover Performance Standards

Oppose efforts that impose infeasible performance standards (e.g. one size fits all) and/or do not consider local conditions, such as a jurisdiction's diversion rate, the local waste stream, other recycling programs in place, and available materials markets. Support efforts that, instead of imposing performance standards on MRFs, promote materials markets.

Issue: As a result of AB 341 and the Mandatory Commercial Recycling regulation, CalRecycle is proposing to enforce minimum performance standards on materials recovery facilities (MRFs).

This effort will determine if MRFs, such as those used in Placer County, will be considered an acceptable commercial recycling option under current law. CalRecycle's proposed standards would impose a "one size fits all" standard that would apply to all facilities in the state, regardless of their unique characteristics, waste streams, and other local conditions, such as materials markets.

Proposal 26: Fees Imposed by Federal, State and Local Regulatory Agencies

Generally oppose efforts to increase fees or other costs of operation unless substantiated by life-cycle and/or cost-benefit analyses, or reasonable demonstrated need. Oppose any new or increased fees designed to help state agencies make up for budget deficits or to fund subsidies or grant programs. Local governments have had to streamline operations in response to the economic climate, and cannot afford continual increased costs of operation. Support measures to reduce regulatory program implementation costs. Regulatory agencies should identify ways to streamline costs before passing on the financial burden to local government- costs which will likely be passed on to ratepayers.

Issue: There have been recent efforts by regulatory agencies to increase or implement new fees including, but not limited to, disposal tipping fees, landfill closure/and corrective action costs, Waste Discharge Requirement fees, AB 32 administrative fees, and landfill closure plan review fees. Any increased fees will directly impact Placer County operations. The recently approved State Water Board Core Regulatory Fees increased the fees for waste discharge permits by 24 percent, resulting in potential annual increases of tens of thousands of dollars.

Proposal 27: Permitting and Regulatory Flexibility for Solid Waste, Water, and Wastewater Programs

Support legislation and/or regulatory permitting that would provide local agencies more program and operational flexibility and would give relief to small districts and small or disadvantaged communities. Oppose increased or more stringent regulatory requirements without use of scientific evidence. Optimally, regulations and facility permits should authorize agencies and operators to implement and modify compliance programs without the need to obtain permitting or other approval, as long as the efforts comply with applicable regulations and compliance requirements.

Issue: Current regulations and permits often do not provide local agencies and operators opportunities for operational flexibility. Wastewater facility permits often include requirements that are not based on scientific evidence, are unnecessarily stringent, do not allow for site-specific factors to be considered, and often dictate the specific means for compliance. Each jurisdiction and its facilities are unique; local government and facility operators must be able to determine what programs will work best to meet compliance and should be provided that flexibility. Increased flexibility would enable local agencies to manage its Solid Waste, Water, and Wastewater Programs in smarter and more efficient ways, meet mandates using a variety of methods, and implement operational changes without permit revisions. Requirements that are more stringent cause increased capital and operating costs to County solid waste, water, and wastewater facilities, reducing ability to operate efficiently and not necessarily resulting in any environmental benefit.

Proposal 28: Alternative Daily Cover

Oppose legislation that would restrict, prohibit, or otherwise disincentivize the use of MRF fines (e.g. no longer count as waste diversion) as ADC that is not based on sound science. Support use of MRF fines as ADC where the material meet State standards.

Issue: Waste collected in Placer County is processed at one of two MRFs in the County and MRF fines from both facilities are utilized as ADC. Proposed legislation (AB 323) could potentially threaten the ability of landfills to utilize MRF processing "fines" as an alternative daily cover ADC for landfills, in place of virgin soil. MRF fines, residual material from the processing of mixed waste, are characterized by their small particle size and generally consist of dirt, small shreds of paper, glass and inert materials. If MRF fines as ADC was no longer permitted, the material would instead be landfilled and the WPWMA would have to pay the \$1.40 per ton disposal fee to the State on that material. In addition, the County and other jurisdictions that deliver waste to WPWMA would no longer receive the diversion credit toward the State AB 939 diversion mandate.

Proposal 29: Solid Waste Regulation or Legislation

Oppose any solid waste and recycling related mandates that are not substantiated by cost/benefit/feasibility studies, a funding mechanism (other than tipping fees or garbage rates), and/or manufacturer and extended producer responsibility.

Issue: In recent years, many bills and regulations related to solid waste have been proposed. Invariably, they lack sufficient consideration of costs to jurisdictions, environmental impacts, available commodities markets, and producer responsibility. The costs to comply with new regulations that may come as a result of AB 341 (Chesbro, 2011) could be significant and passed on to customers in the form of increased tipping fees and garbage rates. Currently, it is unclear what additional programs could be added that, under current regulations that would qualify as diversion or for which there are sufficient commodities markets. Prior to the State implementing new diversion mandates, comprehensive evaluations should be conducted to determine the potential environmental and economic effects, technologies and markets available, and producer responsibility necessary to accomplish these goals. Stakeholder involvement should be mandatory.

Proposal 30: Extended Producer Responsibility Legislation

Support Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation designed to shift the financial disposal burden of household hazardous waste, universal waste and other problematic products from cities and counties to manufacturers and producers of the products. Oppose landfill bans that are not substantiated by scientific studies demonstrating that land filling the material poses a danger to human or environmental health and oppose bans that do not provide a plan for cost-effective ways to remove the material from the waste stream.

Issue: In recent years, various materials have been designated as hazardous and banned from landfill disposal. Such requirements, along with a lack of producer responsibility, for hazardous and difficult-to-recycle materials, have resulted in significant financial impacts to local jurisdictions. Without producer responsibility, jurisdictions will continue to be responsible for implementing appropriate diversion programs to keep the specified wastes out of landfills. Without producer responsibility, the County will continue to pay for diversion programs and operational costs to divert these wastes. Such costs will likely be passed on to garbage ratepayers.

Proposal 31: Economic Incentives for Green Technology Legislation

Support efforts to provide financial and other incentives to assist in implementing compliance programs using green technology including, but not limited to diversion credits for new technologies designed to convert waste materials into usable energy, renewable energy credits, tax credits, and greenhouse gas reduction credits.

Issue: State and federal mandates require local jurisdictions to increase waste diversion and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. New green technology can be highly effective in helping jurisdictions achieve the mandates, but are often infeasible due to the lack of economic and other incentives, in addition to and regulatory and permitting barriers. Some new, green technologies, due to either their cost or their inability to qualify for financial incentives or as compliance programs, are not feasible to implement. For example, conversion of solid waste to energy reduces dependence on landfills and creates a fuel source for renewable energy; however, such technology does not currently qualify for AB 939 diversion credits or renewable energy credits, and is very difficult to permit, making the technology infeasible to implement. Further, under CalRecycle's draft report "California's New Goal: 75% Recycling" (2012), waste-to-energy and certain diversion activities could soon be considered disposal activities, thereby undermining their financial viability. For agencies to be able to help meet State and/or Federal emission mandates and energy goals, and to continue to reduce dependence on landfills and fossil fuels, they must receive the tools and incentives needed to implement new and greener technology. The provision of financial and other incentives and eased permitting requirements would encourage the County and/or Western Placer Waste Management Authority to implement green technologies at their solid waste and/or wastewater facilities by providing a revenue stream, that is not currently available and could provide substantial new sources of energy or clean fuel and promote new markets for materials otherwise disposed of in landfills. Without incentives, such as diversion credits, renewable energy credits, and greenhouse gas emission credits, many green technologies will remain financially infeasible.

Proposal 32: Biomass Utilization Strategy for Federal Lands and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

1) Support, oppose, or propose legislation and rules to ensure woody biomass from all forest ownerships (public and private) is potentially eligible as fuel for renewable energy, and to acknowledge such use as being carbon neutral. The County engages in partnerships and coalitions within the region, state and nationally. Changing legislation to allow federal lands to qualify for credits would, also, increase national forest ability to implement projects that sequester carbon and help meet goals for greenhouse gas reduction.

2) Support initiatives for the renewal of incentive programs such as the Production Tax Credit and Investment Tax Credit by demonstrating there are significant underutilized resources that are both socially and environmentally beneficial. These projects rely on federal incentives to reallocate positive externalities, which allow these renewable projects to become economically competitive with traditional fossil fuels such as the Placer County Cabin Creek facility proposal.

Issue: Several on-going federal climate change and renewable energy related legislation and rules contain language that does not consider energy from biomass removed from federal lands as renewable, and does not include biomass conversion as being carbon neutral. At the same time, the State is in the process of developing climate change regulations that will define the role of biomass as a renewable energy source. The current uncertainty and potential for biomass to be excluded as renewable, will severely limit the feasibility of biomass power generation in Placer County and elsewhere. Supporting legislation that allows biomass to be included in GHG emissions reductions credits, support legislation that allows biomass from federal lands to qualify

for credits and defines biomass as carbon neutral. Support legislation that will create funding sources that, in turn, support sustainable removal of biomass from the forestlands for use in the generation of renewable energy. The federal Investment Tax Credit, one of the major investment incentive policies for renewable energy, is scheduled to terminate on December 31, 2013. Congress does have the opportunity to extend the Investment Tax Credit. The Production Tax Credits, another major investment incentive policy for renewable energy projects, is not scheduled to terminate until December 31, 2016. Both of these items are part of the economic feasibility of the Placer County Biomass energy facility proposed in the Lake Tahoe Region.

Proposal 33: Health and Human Services Programs

Support adequate, flexible, and stable funding to best meet Federal/State Health and Human Services program requirements including Child Welfare Services, Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Services, Human Services, Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services, Health Care to Low-Income Adults including the indigent and California Children Services, and Health Reform. In addition, support continuation of the Placer County Integrated Health & Human Services Pilot Program (Placer Waiver- State Welfare and Institutions Code 18986.62) to maximize flexibility in program design as well as increase Federal/State funding leveraging opportunities.

Issue: Funding to meet Federal/State mandated program requirements is often inadequate, prescriptive, and inflexible. Greater leveraging of Federal/State funding streams and enhanced opportunity for innovative service delivery models to facilitate meeting mandated program requirements. This proposal seeks to reduce existing County costs while leveraging Federal and State revenues and fostering program innovation. Adequate and stable funding is critical to best meet Federal/State Health and Human Services program requirements. Doing so will enable the County to continue to provide critical services for health and human service programs which are known to reduce homelessness, criminal behavior, substance abuse, and unemployment resulting in healthier more productive residents while reducing overall county expenditures.

Proposal 34: Child Welfare Services and Foster Care Program Mandates

Support full and complete restoration of State funding, as well as efforts to adequately fund and support Child Welfare Services and Foster Care program mandates. Child Welfare Services protects children from abuse and neglect and has been woefully underfunded for years.

Issue: Funding for Child Welfare Services remains significantly below County costs to meet Federal and State program requirements and outcome measures and requirements are often overly prescriptive and inflexible. The State intends, through Realignment growth, to restore more than \$200 million statewide to Child Welfare Services over the next few years. While this effort is a positive step, it is dependent on tax revenue, a very unpredictable revenue source. The State's intention to restore funding will not fully keep pace with the cost increases associated with an ever increasing number of legislative mandates passed by the State, or other cost drivers associated with service delivery. Greater leveraging of Federal/State funding streams will assure that Placer is prepared to best meet the safety and welfare needs of at-risk and abused children. The County's population of minor children has increased more than 30 percent since 1999. This proposal seeks to reduce County General Fund costs through increased State or Federal funding for mandated Child Welfare and Foster Care services.

Proposal 35: Reduce Pet Overpopulation

Support legislation that seeks to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats entering shelters each year without increasing the cost to the County. Advocate for legislation that requires owners to spay or neuter their dogs and/or cats if the owners are repeatedly cited for their dogs and cats being unlicensed or repeatedly impounded or cited for being at large.

Issue: Overpopulation of dogs and cats poses a significant risk to public health and safety, particularly the occurrences of dog bites and the transmission of rabies and other communicable animal diseases. Unaltered dogs are three-times more likely to attack humans and other animals.

Proposal 36: Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds and Program Reforms

1) Advocate for continued support for Federal CDBG and HOME program funding and support improvements and reforms to statewide administration of the CDBG program.

Issue: Placer County has used CDBG and HOME funds for economic development job creation projects (e.g. Auburn Plaza Shopping Center, Rock Creek Plaza Shopping Center), community revitalization and infrastructure improvements and affordable housing (1st Time Homebuyer Loans, Housing Rehab Loans, and Kings Beach Scattered Sites Housing Project). The program is administered by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). CDBG program reform to be more efficient would be beneficial to local administration of the grant. This would include; reduced paperwork, more flexibility, more emphasis on economic development issues and an increased technical assistance provided by HCD. Key priorities for reform include: Streamline the program, renew HCD focus on technical assistance, consider an economic development advocate within HCD, provide better guidance on the re-monitoring and auditing of grant recipients, and limit the amount of paperwork and regulation. Counties recognize the importance of the CDBG Program and the value of the investing in communities. By streamlining the program and enacting the proposed reforms, it is expected that the program would be easier to implement for smaller communities.

Proposal 37: Low Income Housing Tax Credits

Advocate for continued support for Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

Issue: Tax credits are one of the most important financing tools currently used for the development of affordable housing. In 2010, the Placer County Redevelopment Agency, in partnership with its private development partner, received a tax credits award of approximately \$23M for the Kings Beach Scattered Sites Housing Project. A significant portion of this successful project has already been completed. Today, Placer County as the housing successor, in partnership with a different private developer, is seeking award of tax credits for the Quartz Ridge Family Housing Project in Bowman.

Issue: Federal debt reduction efforts may include the reduction or elimination of Low Income Housing Tax Credits. This program is extensively used and is an important financing tool for the development of new affordable housing. Tax credits are currently awarded through a highly competitive application and review process. In a typical year, several applications are submitted for every award that is given. A reduction in this program would seriously hinder the County's ability to successfully finance new affordable housing projects. A typical tax credits award for one multi-family project would be approximately \$20M. Furthermore, many proposed projects are considered financially feasible only with the inclusion of tax credits.

Proposal 38: Modify Laws that Limit CalPERS Retirement Options Affecting New Hires

Support or sponsor legislation and policy as may be required to allow Placer County to discontinue enrollment of new employees into the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) to create a "soft freeze" on the retirement plan; thereby allowing existing employees to continue to accrue service credit and pension benefits within the current CalPERS retirement system. In addition, there may be additional changes needed under Public Employees Hospital and Medical Care Act to allow new hires, not in the CalPERS retirement plan, to have access to the same medical plans as current employees.

Issues: Current law limits contracting agencies, such as Placer County, from being able to control long-term pension costs. Existing law does not allow a contracting agency to establish an alternative retirement benefit for new hires, while maintaining the existing plan participants in the defined benefit plan. The changing dynamics of the workforce, as well as rising pension costs, requires agencies to reassess their current benefit platforms and look at other viable options for retirement benefits for new employees. Modifying existing law to include a "soft close" option would allow contracting agencies another option to use to manage their pension costs and still provide services to constituents.

Proposal 39: Modify CalPERS Health Insurance Vesting

Support legislation that will allow Placer County to continue to have local control to contract with their bargaining groups for County employees regarding health insurance premium contribution formulas. Allow Placer County to construct a tiered retiree health insurance vesting system that could apply to both current employees and future employees replacing requirement to be tied to the State annuitant formula, or, as an alternative, allow Placer County to use the Schools' vesting formula (non-teaching tier system) as provided for under the government code.

Issue: Current law limits public agencies that contract with CalPERS for health insurance under the Public Employees Medical Care and Hospital Act (PEMCHA) to a limited number of options to tier retiree premium vesting which can cause an economic hardship to the agency providing benefits and negatively impact the agency's Other Post Employment Benefits obligation. The changing dynamics of the workforce, as well as the spiraling health insurance costs, necessitates the consideration of more viable options for health care cost sharing and vesting for active employees and retirees.

Proposal 40: Funding for Regional Public Safety Communications Network

Seek funding to continue implementation of a countywide Project 25 compliant communications system. This will provide increased public safety and disaster response by increasing communication across and between multi-jurisdictional boundaries with other mutual aid agencies.

Issue: Communications equipment currently used by law enforcement and other public safety officials in the County is outdated, unreliable, has limited functionality and interoperability, and is becoming increasingly difficult and costly to maintain. In addition, the current system does not comply with Project 25 (Federal Communications Commission equipment standards providing greater public safety interoperability). Maintaining public safety is one of the most important roles of government.

Proposal 41: Veterans Auburn Community Based Outreach Clinic

Support shifting the Auburn Community Based Outreach Clinic from the VA Medical Center – Reno, NV to the VA Medical Center – Mather, CA. to facilitate better service and accessibility options.

Issue: For Placer County’s veterans, the managing VA hospital is located in Reno, NV. This trip is not only lengthy, but is dangerous in inclement weather, as it requires travel over the mountains between California and Nevada. In addition, there is a lack of transport between the two facilities. By shifting management, the Auburn Clinic would be more effective in caring for our veterans and their families. Oversight and a higher level of care would be within 30-45 minutes instead of over 2 hours away.

Proposal 42: State Funding for Public Libraries

Continue to support efforts to restore full funding of State support of public libraries for all programs. The reduction or elimination of State Library funding will continue to impact library services and programs throughout the state. Restoration of full funding will enable public libraries to provide necessary services and materials.

Issue: California public libraries, engaged in cooperative efforts with neighboring libraries, are supported through State funded programs as directed in the California Library Services Act (CLSA). Senate Bill 1099, which streamlines the CLSA, went into effect on January 1, 2013. In light of the state’s inability to fund CLSA at its appropriate levels, there are areas within the Act that were revised and/or eliminated. Revisions to the CLSA allows for federal funding through the Institute of Museums and Libraries for purposes other than reference services, which have declined significantly throughout the State. Continued efforts are needed to restore full support of State Library funding.

Proposal 43: Child Support Arrearages

Support legislation that supports the inclusions of mechanisms that promote collection of child support arrearages.

Proposal 44: The Medicare/Medicaid Extension Act

Support amendment to the Medicare/Medicaid Extension Act that will provide a fair and equitable process for reimbursement of Medicare Set Aside or Medicare Reimbursement Accounts.

Issue: The Medicare/Medicaid Extension Act created an obligation for all Self-insured employers to set aside financial accounts for qualified employees receiving Worker’s Compensation, Employee’s Health benefits, and third parties receiving Liability settlements. Current statute requires set aside accounts for Medicare reimbursements from Worker’s Compensation and Liability claim settlements for those receiving Medi-Cal/Medicaid benefits or those eligible to receive benefits with reporting and approval to CMS on all settlements, judgments, and awards. The process delays resolution of claims and increases costs to employers. Settlement of claims take into consideration potential exposure for liability of medical costs whereas CMS does not have an established practice of approving fair and equitable settlements and provides no insight as to how they arrive at a given settlement amount. The result is delay in claim resolution which increases cost to the County Worker’s Compensation and General Liability funds.

Proposal 45: Sustainable Communities Program

Support/take advantage of the Sustainable Communities Program funding initiative to locally promote economic competitiveness, protect healthy environments, and enhance quality of life.

Issue: The Partnership for Sustainable Communities is made up of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure that the four agencies' spending, policies, and programs support rural communities' efforts to be vibrant, thriving places for current and future generations. Rural communities across America are working to strengthen their economies, provide better quality of life for residents, and build on assets such as traditional main streets, agricultural and working lands, and natural resources. With federal deficit reduction efforts, federal programs and funding available to support local government programs and infrastructure projects may be in jeopardy.

Proposal 46: Parcel Fees for Fire Planning in State Responsibility Areas (SRA)

Support legislation and advocacy efforts to modify the requirements of AB29 XI that affect Placer County residents, and at a minimum, replace it with a more equitable statewide solution.

Issue: The State of California has the primary financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires in areas that the State of Forestry and Fire Protection has determined are SRA. In order to close the gap on an approximately \$80 million shortfall in the state's fire protection budget, the Governor signed into law AB 29XI on July 7, 2011 which shifted some of the economic burden of fire prevention activities to local residents within the SRA by requiring up to an annual \$150 fire prevention fee to be charged on habitable structures and must be raised with inflation.

Proposal 47: Transit and Transportation Funding

Support legislation, advocacy and grant submission efforts leading to funding for local and regional transit and transportation.

Issue: Rapid growth within the region has fueled the need for additional investment in the County's regional traffic circulation system. County transportation funding needs include: continued Interstate 80 (a major cross-country interstate highway) improvements, the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project; county bridge replacement projects, and the future proposed Placer Parkway. With over 1,000 miles of paved roads, many of which are the only transportation network in the area; keeping our road system in quality condition remains vital.